



# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Avian influenza is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among chickens through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds (especially waterfowl), through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers.

As a producer, you need to protect your flock and be vigilant in reporting signs of illness. With known detections of HPAI in wild birds and cases in backyard flocks in Oregon, all poultry farms should follow strict biosecurity measures, monitor birds closely, and report immediately if you suspect illness.

## BEFORE YOU KNOW

### If you notice...

- increased mortality,
- less water usage, decreased appetite,
- egg production going down,
- birds having difficulty breathing,
- neurologic signs or diarrhea,

### then...

## SAY SOMETHING

Do not hesitate to call the Oregon State Veterinarian.

### Oregon Department of Agriculture

503-986-4711

AHHotline@oda.oregon.gov

If you see sick or dead wild birds, contact ODFW:

### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

1-866-968-2600

## RESPONSE

A state or federal official will contact you to come to your farm and collect samples to test for HPAI.

**Note:** If you are compensated for your flock, reporting sooner is better in terms of how your inventory is counted.

## 0-12 HOURS

### QUARANTINE

You will probably receive a quarantine order from a state official.

A quarantine means only authorized personnel are allowed on and off your property.

Do not move birds, poultry products, or equipment.

### INVENTORY

An official will work with you on your inventory of birds if your flock needs to be depopulated.

### SUSPICION

Samples will go to the OSU diagnostic lab with results typically coming back in 24 hours.

If results come back positive for avian influenza, your flock is considered to be “presumptive positive,” which means we are relatively sure, but not 100% positive, that your flock has highly pathogenic avian influenza.

## 12-36 HOURS

### “IN-BETWEEN PHASE”

If you received a “presumptive positive,” a case manager will come to your farm and guide you through everything.

Typically, officials wait for USDA confirmation, but in certain situations your flock may be depopulated if your birds are “presumptive positive.”

### CONFIRMATION

Additional samples will be sent to the USDA NVSL lab for confirmation. This can take a few days and the wait can be really tough. State and federal officials cannot make any public announcements until the confirmation from USDA is made.

Once NVSL confirms HPAI, the next steps can begin and responders will arrive at your farm, if they haven’t already.

You should expect a reimbursement specialist to contact you to discuss indemnity. Indemnity is compensation for the loss of animals and some products related to depopulation and controlling the disease.

## 36-72 HOURS

### FLOCK DEPOPULATION

Federal and state officials will work with you to figure out the best way to humanely depopulate your flock. There will be a lot of forms to fill out and information to provide. Your case manager will help walk you through it.

### DISPOSAL

Once the flock is depopulated, the next step is disposal. This is taken care of by the state and federal officials. If your flock is very large, this may include composting on your farm.

### HOW DID MY BIRDS GET SICK?

In addition to the staff on-site for depopulation and disposal, you will probably hear from other officials to figure out how HPAI infected your flock so we can try to stop the spread.

# Your Role in HPAI Response

## IT ALL STARTS WITH BIOSECURITY

Once you suspect that your flock may have avian influenza, make sure you contact the State Veterinarian. After that, there are steps you will need to take to stop the spread of the virus off your farm. In addition, you will need to get your facilities ready for the response and gather information for your HPAI case manager.

While we may not be sure yet how the virus made it into your flock, you need to take extra precautions that the virus does not make it beyond your farm where it can infect another farm. As soon as you complete your notifications, implement these temporary biosecurity area protocols:

1. Do not allow workers or service providers to come on your farm and then go to another farm. If you have a gate at the end of your farm lane, close and lock it.
2. Change clothes and shoes after being around your poultry, and wash your hands. Disposable coveralls and shoe covers work well. Wear (K) N95 masks when around your poultry to protect yourself from possible exposure to the HPAI virus.
3. If possible, make sure everyone takes a shower and puts on fresh clothes before leaving your farm.
4. Do not visit other farms or facilities where poultry may be present.
5. Check with your state animal health official to see if there is anything else you can do to help stop the spread.

## FACILITY PREPARATION

Your case manager, the reimbursement specialist, and the epidemiologist who figure out how the virus got onto your farm, will need information from you. Get prepared by gathering the following information:

- Visitor logs (e.g., feed trucks, propane deliveries, and other service people)
- Mortality records
- Records of new or returning animals to the farm
- Areas where comingling of birds with wild waterfowl can occur

Continue heightened biosecurity and begin preparing your production area for depopulation. Take the following steps:

- Raise feed and water lines
- Have water hoses ready
- Figure out the best route for getting on and off your farm and where crews can park in an area away from infected birds but with easy access to barns.

## SELF-CARE

The first 72 hours of the HPAI response is equivalent to a sprint, but the response efforts that come later are similar to preparing for a marathon. You need to ensure that you, your family, and your workers make self-care a priority to remain healthy during this time.

- Take care of yourself – try to eat and get some sleep.
- It is okay to ask for help. You are experiencing a very stressful event. Experiencing mental health challenges can be confusing and frightening. If you need someone to talk to about what is happening, experts are available to help.
- Monitor yourself, your family, and any workers daily for flu-like symptoms. Report symptoms to your local public health department.



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